



orlandiana

Newsletter of the
Bromeliad Society of Central Florida

Volume no. 44, Issue no. 08

September 2017

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 20, 2017

Where: Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803

6:30–7:00 is pre-meeting time for purchasing plants from the guest speaker

Meeting begins at 7:00 pm

No Member Market in September

Please bring snack, raffle, and show and tell plants to the meeting.

Please try to label your raffle and door prize plants, even if you only can write something such as “unknown Neo hybrid”, every little bit helps the members who are trying to learn about different types of bromeliads. Plants should be clean and insect free!

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The President's Message

Good day and a better September to all. I hope that you survived Irma with minimal damage. Still lots of clean-up. Am sure we will see all the debris on curbs and streets for many days, if not weeks.

I heard that I missed a fantastic meeting in August with many, many plants up for raffle. And a great speaker too. I look forward to seeing everyone at our meeting on the 20th. One of our own members, Ken Hicks, will be our speaker. Please come out and support Ken and our Society.

Don't forget our last Society sale of the year will be at Mead Gardens, GROWvember Plant Sale, Friday and Saturday, November 3 and 4. Please let me know if you are planning on selling bromeliads at the Society's booth.

And also don't forget our tailgate picnic at Mead Gardens, Saturday, October 21. We will discuss the details at our meeting on the 20th.

Wishing you a great rest of September,
mike

About This Month's Presentation and Our Guest Speaker, Ken Hicks

Ken has been a partner in his family Orlando business for 25 years, "Hicks Orchids & Supplies". But please don't let that title fool you because orchid supplies are also bromeliad supplies. Ken grows bromeliads as well as orchids.

Ken will be doing a hands-on presentation. He will have plants to sell as well as his wonderful plant supplies. He is very knowledgeable, so come expecting to learn some new potting and growing "tricks".

Marilyn bought the plant stand shown on the next page from Ken at the Orchid Show and Sale this past June. She mentioned that it was really easy to put together, is very sturdy, and that she just loves it. Ken and his Dad make these plant stands. The plant stands hold 12 plants. There is a plant stand for 4" pots and one for 6" pots. Plus Ken just told Marilyn that they now have another variety.



Ken Hicks and a sampling of his supplies.





Marilyn's plant stand from Hicks Orchids and Supplies in her wonderful garden!

Quick Tips!

Free Plant Name Tags

I go to Lowes and Home Depot, there's usually a garbage can near where they trim the vertical blinds for patio doors, they give me the scraps, for free. I take them home and cut them into rectangles, with a point on one end, just like the plant tags, you can buy. 100's of labels for free! I also cut square ones, to label and put on the bottom of the plant. This way if the label in the top gets lost, there's a backup safely buried.

– Steven Wagner-Young

Use Pencil!

Try using a #2 pencil when writing on your plant name tags – it doesn't wash or wear-off of the plastic. And you can always erase mistakes!

– Marilyn Howser

Monthly Meeting Minutes

Bromeliad Society of Central Florida — 16 August, 2017

The meeting was opened at 7:00 pm by VP Marilyn Howser who introduced Dave Johnston, our guest speaker.

Dave's presentation, *Billbergias Are Awesome*, was awesome! Dave started the presentation by showing species plants and then started going through the registered hybrids. He explained cultural conditions; how light, fertilizer, and watering can affect the health and coloration of the plants in this genus. Dave only had enough time to go through the first of his two Billbergia presentations and I hope that we get to hear the second one sometime soon – many of us love this genus of beautifully patterned plants.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm by Treasurer Betsy McCrory

(in President Mike Saunder's absence)

Betsy thanked Dave for his presentation.

Meeting minutes approved:

19 July 2017

Welcome!

Guest Sam Ewing

Treasurer's Report:

- Betsy gave the Treasurer's Report and will file the report for audit.
- **Mead Gardens GROWvember event**
The booth for the event is \$75. and we're doing a 20/80 split on plant profits.

Vice President's Report:

- Our guest speaker for the September meeting will be our own Kenneth Hicks!
- Mead Gardens greenhouse tour and tailgate party – Marilyn will send out an email to members.
- Reminded everyone that there were lots of good pictures of the *Bromeliads by the Bay Extravaganza* in the FCBS newsletter and also in the Orlandiana.
- Billbergia Pyramidalis – Marilyn shared a Pyramidalis with the group and mentioned that everyone should look out for them as they are currently blooming all over town! This prompted a quick discussion of all the different colloquial or common names given the plant...whether you call it a Flaming Torch or a Lipstick plant it is still a delight to see them all blooming around town.
- How to make a plant label out of venetian blinds – a quick demo!

Old or Unfinished Business

GROWvember

Just a quick mention about the November event: set-up is 8:00 Friday am. The sale is starting on Friday at 1:00 pm and lasts through the Preview Party. 1:00 pm–6:00 pm Friday for sales. 8:00 am–4:00 pm for Saturday sales. Let Mike know if you would like to sell plants at the event.

Webmaster/Wouldn't somebody love to do a website?

We are still in need of a volunteer that is interested in working on a Society website!

Newsletter Editor needed!

We are in need of a Newsletter Editor – if interested please let one of the officers know!

New Business

Many of the plants on the raffle table are from a plant rescue that Pam Flesher did. Wow!! Quite the rescue Pam, you must have been digging and loading your vehicle for the better part of a day at least. Kudos to you for rescuing all the plants and offering them up for new homes.

JoAnne Emmerth has some donations for the society, Betsy isn't quite sure if she has plants or household items. Karen Steinberg and Katherine Vaccaro have volunteered to call her and check it out.

Florida Council Judges School – if anyone is interested in attending classes to become a certified judge for a bromeliad show please let one of the officers know. More on Judges School to come – the classes will probably start around the beginning of the year and classes will be \$25. per class.

Show and Tell

Plants were brought in by Mike McMahon, Chad Brinkerhuff, John Boardman and Grant Groves. Thanks for sharing your beautiful plants, oddities and knowledge. We have our fingers crossed for your Vriesea Mike!

Door Prizes and Raffle Plants

Door prizes and raffle table tickets were drawn, and drawn, and drawn...! Thanks again to Pam Flesher for the crazy amount of rescue plants on the raffle table. Woo hoo!

The meeting concluded at 9:00 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Karen Steinberg.



Visit the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies Website

Whether you are new to bromeliads or an experienced pro there is going to be something of interest to you on the FCBS website! There is an extensive photo index, information on the different bromeliad societies in Florida, basic and advanced plant and plant culture info...you can spend countless hours digging around on the website finding all sorts of interesting articles and photos.

An Interview with Karen Andreas is Dr. Teresa Cooper's latest video – this video goes over what the FCBS is, what it's role is in the fight against the "Evil Weevil", and what the Al Muzzell Memorial Weevil Fund is. Save Florida's Bromeliads Conservation Project is now a main link on the home page of the FCBS site – you can read up on the latest work that Dr. Cooper and volunteers are doing in the fight against the Mexican Bromeliad Weevil and see how you can help to save Florida's native bromeliads.

Go to the Bromeliad Habitat tab and check out the articles and photos by Oscar Ribeiro on Brazil, they are some of my favorites and I'm only part way through the 12 chapters! If you like seeing bromeliads in habitat, this is the tab for you. Geez, it really makes one itchy for some travel so be prepared to have "vacation dreams" after visiting this tab of the website!

www.fcbs.org

www.savebromeliads.com

Hurricane Irma

Many of our favorite nurseries and plant growers have been affected by Hurricane Irma which just blew through our state. If you are planning to go to an event this Fall at a nursery or really any event or festival that was scheduled for late September, please check with the organization/nursery to see if the event has been postponed. Many events scheduled for the end of September/early October have already been rescheduled for a bit later in the year; hurricane cleanup is taking center stage currently.

If you have the time to volunteer hours, many, many of the nurseries and botanical gardens in Florida need help with hurricane cleanup. Please consider helping out – the faster debris is cleaned up the better it is for everyone!

If any Society member has had hurricane damage and needs help with cleanup please contact one of the officers or propose a work group at our upcoming meeting on Wednesday. Cleanup goes faster with more hands!

Our City of Orlando's Leu Gardens sustained significant damage and has a cleanup day scheduled for September 30th – please see their website for more information. www.leugardens.org

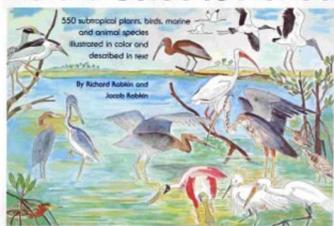
BIRDS AND BROMELIADS



“Prothonotary warblers, white-eyed vireos, Carolina wrens, and numerous other birds commonly drink from these elevated water sources.”

Butler J. 1974. Pineapples in the treetops. *Florida Naturalist* 47(4): 13-17.

Nature Guide to Florida



“The bromeliads are most ingenious in their adaptation. They have developed a special structural form for collection and storing water. Their pointed leaves are furled at the base, but then spread open to form a vase-like container for funneling rainfall and dew. This miniature reservoir becomes the center of an active environment. Mosquitos and other aquatic insects live and breed in the water small tree frogs find shelter and moisture in the rosettes of leaves, snakes search out frogs and lizards, and birds drink from these readily accessible and almost perpetual water sources and forage for insects among the leaves.”

Rabkin R, Rabkin J. 1978. *Nature Guide to Florida*. Banyan Books, Miami, FL. 80 pp.

Birds use bromeliads as a water source in the canopy; as hunting grounds; for nesting material, nest sites, or nest cover; and for fruits and flowers. These bromeliads often grow in huge, dense populations, creating an entirely new layer of habitat up in the forest canopies. With the loss of Florida’s bromeliads, especially the giant airplant, bird habitat is lost.

TABLE 1. Bird use of epiphytes by plant group and resource type, based on information from 35 published reports. A total of 193 bird species have been recorded to use epiphytes. Epiphyte resource type: In = inverted; Fr = flowers (mainly nectar); Fr = fruits or seeds; Ne = nesting material, nest sites, or nest cover; Wa = water.

Number of bird species utilizing epiphytes	Plant group	Resource type
58	Bromeliaceae	In Fr Wa Ne
53	Bryophyta	In N Wa
50	Lecanidaceae	Fr Fr
39	Margraviaceae	In Fr Fr
18	Eriaceae	Fr Fr Ne
12	Clematidaceae	Fr Fr
9	Guttiferaceae	Fr Fr
6	Araceae	Fr Ne
6	Solanaceae	Fr
5	Aspladaceae	Fr Ne
5	Lichens	In Ne
5	Ochridaceae	Fr Ne
5	Cactaceae	Fr
3	Pteridophyta	Ne
1	Begoniaceae	Ne
1	Piperaceae	Ne
1	Rubiaceae	Fr



FIGURE 1. Epiphyte mat. A = branch, B = dead organic matter, C = bromeliads, D = ericaceous shrub (woody shrub), E = mosses and filmy ferns, F = orchid (herbaceous plants), G = ferns.

Nadkarni NM and Matelson TJ. 1989. Bird use of epiphyte resources in Neotropical trees. *The Condor*. 91(4): 891-907.

Continued on the following page



Giant Airplant, *Tillandsia utriculata*



Phytotelm inhabitants include specialist and facultative organisms. The majority of the inhabitants are invertebrates, but frogs and other vertebrates also rely on the water for part of their life cycle. A recent list of specialist aquatic bromeliad-inhabiting organisms in Florida include segmented worms, seed shrimp, copepods, and arthropods including many species of flies.

PHYTOTELMATA

Phytotelmata are pools of water contained by plants. Epiphytic tank bromeliads include many species that are important phytotelm-supporting plants, particularly in wet, Neotropical forests. The pools of water function as aquatic microcosms for many specialist organisms and as nutrient sources for the bromeliads, and provide habitat and water sources in the canopy. The giant airplant (*Tillandsia utriculata*) is an epiphytic tank bromeliad that was once widespread from Central to South Florida. It has been hit particularly hard by the weevil and is declining rapidly.

What could be lost?

“Twenty-one native species, consisting of 12 bromeliads and at least 9 (perhaps 19) invertebrates are at risk of extinction in Florida and in the USA. At least 6 of them (1 bromeliad and 5 invertebrates) seem to be precinctive species.” Frank and Fish 2008

	time = 0	time = 6 months	time = 25 months
Estimated number of <i>T. utriculata</i>	46,000	8,800	1,100
Estimated volume of phytotelmata (liters):	16,700	3,200	400

Table 1: Estimated number of *T. utriculata* and volume of phytotelmata over a 240,000 m² area in the Enchanted Forest Sanctuary, Florida. Cooper, Frank, and Cave 2014

THE MEXICAN BROMELIAD WEEVIL IN FLORIDA

Teresa M. Cooper

University of Florida, Entomology and Nematology Department, Gainesville, Florida

This research is in part being funded by the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies

List of Upcoming Events

November 3–4, 2017

Mead Gardens GROWvember Fall Plant Sale
Mead Botanical Gardens
1500 S. Denning Dr., Winter Park, FL 32789
BSCF will have a booth at the event for Plant sales.

May 29–June 3, 2018

BSI World Conference in San Diego, California
<http://www.bsi.org/new/conference-corner/>

The next World Bromeliad Conference will be held in San Diego, California. It will be held May 29–June 3, 2018. Now is a great time to join the Bromeliad Society International as we are offering 25 discount to new memberships! www.bsi.org



Our Meeting Next Month: Wednesday, October 18th, 2017

The Bromeliad Society of Central Florida meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of every month from 7–9 PM at Leu Gardens, 1920 N. Forest Avenue, Orlando, FL 32803. You'll enjoy informative programs, Show & Tell, plant sales, refreshments & door prizes. Members also receive a monthly newsletter—all for only \$15 per member, plus \$5 per additional family member (no charge for full-time students). Visitors are always welcome.

BSCF is a nonprofit Florida corporation recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations to this society are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

BSCF is an affiliate of the Bromeliad Society International, Inc. and a member of the Florida Council of Bromeliad Societies, Inc. and the Cryptanthus Society.

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